

## Delaware Township Recreation Commission Minutes – June 3, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Flag Salute – Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present: Judy Allen, Chad Bower, Erin Buchanan, Johnny Cane, Steve Smotrich, Tim Soltis, Jes Stahl, Brian Sulewski, Linda Ubry, Sarah Waverka

Also Present: Jenna Vecchione, Summer Recreation Program Director

### Notice Requirement

Notice of this meeting was properly provided.

### Approval of Minutes from the May 6, 2024 Meeting

Steve moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 6, 2024, Erin seconded the motion, and members approved the minutes with abstentions by Chad, Tim and Linda.

### Teen Events

Campout – Johnny said he reached out to fellow teens about what they would like to do at a fall campout at the Dilts Farm Park. Suggestions included a bonfire, smores, manhunt, and use of fields. Teens would also like laser tag. Members thought September would be a good time. Parent chaperones will be needed. This would be open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Jes suggested combining a hike and the campout.

Chad said the Township Committee must review and approve use of facilities including special events like the recent teen paintball event at the Dilts Farm Park. The Township must ensure appropriate use and proper insurance coverage.

### Financial Report

Jes said the Township Committee budgeted \$36,000 for the Commission in 2024. The Commission had asked for \$38,500. The budget includes \$5,000 earmarked for DTAA and \$4,000 for Seniors. Apple TV also donated \$7,500 for filming in the Township which will be given to DTAA. DTAA and the Seniors should provide details on what these funds will be used for before the Commission will vote to provide the funds. Jes said the Commission must adhere carefully to the expenses tentatively allocated to each event.

The Commission budgeted \$7,500 for the Summer Recreation Program. Director Jenna Vecchione said she will prepare spreadsheets for employees and registrants. Staffing is progressing. Background checks (\$30 each) will be required where needed, and that fee is included in the budget.

### Eagle Scout Candidate Zach Gillespie - Gaga Court Project at the Dilts Farm Park

Zach said he finished construction of the Gaga Court at the Dilts Farm Park. It is located near the playground. Members discussed a ribbon cutting ceremony at DTAA's spring sports closing on June 15. Chad will check with DPW about a sign/plaque identifying the court as Zach's

Eagle Scout Project. The project will be included in the next edition of The Bridge. Members thanked Zach for this excellent addition to the Park.

#### Amazon Business Account for the Township

Members discussed at length the process for purchasing items through the Township's Amazon business account. The Commission needs a list of vendors/stores the Township uses with account numbers to place orders. Chad said the bid limit is \$6,600. He will discuss this process further with the Township Committee and report back to the Commission on how to proceed in the future.

#### Summer Recreation Program at DTS – July 8 to July 26 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Program Director Jenna Vecchione outlined Theme Weeks and events she has planned for this year's program. Week 1 is Farm Week with members of 4H coming. Week 2 is Mad Science Week, and Week 3 is Olympic Week. Last year's budget included \$1,800 for expenses and \$1,100 for supplies. Jenna will submit a list of employees for review and approval at the next Township Committee meeting. Tim will order tee shirts for new staffers. Chad asked whether a Class III police officer will be assigned. Jes said Delaware Township School provided one last year. Jes said construction projects at DTS will not conflict with the Program. Salaries may need to be increased to meet current minimum wage standards. Residents needing financial assistance will be accommodated.

#### Town-Wide Yard Sale – May 11 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Judy said this event ran successfully, and there were several new participants. Both Delaware Township's and East Amwell Township's websites posted the lists of addresses.

#### Fishing Derby – May 11 8 to 11 a.m. at the Copelands' Pond

Tim said the weather cooperated, but the fish were not biting as hoped. Prizes were donated by Skip's Outdoors and Flemington Repair Shop, and Shop Rite donated breakfast. Tim moved to purchase two \$50 gift certificates to the Covered Bridge Cafe, one each to Cheryl Copeland and Harrie Copeland, to thank them for use of their pond, without which there could be no Derby. Linda seconded the motion, and members unanimously approved the motion.

#### Somerset Patriots – June 7 at 7 p.m. – Patriots Park in Bridgewater

Steve said 19 people have registered to date for this event. The event is being advertised on social media and the Township website.

#### Great Crate Race – July 4 8 a.m. at Delaware Downs (aka Lower Ferry Road)

##### Trial Date July 22 at 9 a.m. at DTS

Steve said Howard Strober will sell ice cream. Janet Hrehowesik will paint faces. Sponsor requests have been sent. Vintage tee shirts will be sold. NJ Events provides a port-a-potty. Joey Cooper will provide hay bales. Members of the Sergeantsville Volunteer Fire Company will cook food donated by Flemington Shop Rite for sale. Steve will speak with DPW Director Justin Squashic about preparing Lower Ferry Road for this event and hanging the new banner on Rt. 523. Brian will request a Hunterdon County electronic sign. Signs advertising the event will be posted throughout the Township.

### Community Day and Fall Fun Fireworks

Jes said Nancy and Joe Benincasa have offered a Colavita Pizza truck for this event. It provides pizza for up to 200 guests. Members discussed how this generous offer can be organized. DTAA may want to cook and sell food. Kona Ice may be provided. Members discussed a dunk tank and DJ. Members discussed the fireworks display. Last year's display cost \$8,000 plus a \$400 State fee. Judy moved to approve Garden State as this year's fireworks provider, not to exceed \$8,800. Tim seconded the motion, and members unanimously approved the motion.

Members discussed vendor/organization displays. These participants must register in advance and provide their own tables. Each area will be limited to 12' by 12'. The parking lot near the Snack Shack will be reserved for this purpose. Members agreed that sales will not be permitted this year.

### Halloween Spooktacular – October 19 at Dilts Farm Park

This event will be discussed at a future meeting

### Sergeantsville Green Survey – T Mobile Grant

This will be discussed at a future meeting.

### Approval of Dilts Farm Park Applications – None

### Correspondence

Judy said the Girl Scout leaders thanked the Commission for the "Thank you" sent to the scouts for stuffing eggs for the Egg Hunt. Members agreed that Delaware Township School is a good location for stuffing eggs. Next year snacks will be provided to these volunteers.

### Liaison Reports

Township Committee – Chad said the Township Committee will introduce a bond ordinance at its next meeting to finance improvements to the Dilts Farm Park.

DTS Board of Education – Jes said a new playground will be constructed this summer. A new HVAC system will be installed over the gym. Neither project will interfere with the Summer Recreation Program.

DTAA – Erin said the closing ceremony will be June 15<sup>th</sup>. More volunteers are needed for the Snack Shack. The Shack will be open this fall for soccer. She explained the work requirements for parents of children playing DTAA sports to maintain the fields and fund raise at the Snack Shack. The Township DPW is now doing field work. Jes said DTS maintains its fields. Perhaps it could loan equipment to DPW for Dilts field maintenance, if needed, as a shared service. Jes said recycling cans are needed at the Dilts Farm Park, including possibly a Terra Cycle can. Erin asked whether DTAA events can be incorporated in the Commission's "Save the Date" calendar. It could also include DTS PIE events.

Open Space – Steve said the project to identify preserved open space with public access trails is now complete and on the Township website. The Open Space Committee will present the completed project to the Township Committee at the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. There will be a postcard

mailing to promote the trail system with a QR code to scan and locate the trails, parking, etc. The project was funded by a \$2,000 PSEG grant. Jes suggested a Scavenger Hunt in the future to encourage residents to learn about these recreational opportunities. Steve said the Friends of Delaware Township will soon hold a formal dedication of the new benches it purchased to honor the late Jim McCue and Ginny Hook. The benches will be installed on the Sergeantsville Green near the sidewalk. There may be recognition for the late Tony Szwed at the White Oak Trail.

#### Lost and Found Box at Dilts Farm Park

Jes said the newly purchased lost and found box is now in place at the Dilts Farm Park near the Snack Shack. She thanked the DPW for installing it.

#### Meeting Opened to the Public

There were no comments or questions from the public.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Judith A. Allen, Secretary

Next Meeting: July 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.